

July 23, 1968

Dear Harold,

I write to inform you that I will be going, at least as my plans are now, to Dallas on the 4th. of August, and staying for about 1 week. I am in the process of collecting various names that I want to interview in Dallas. Do you happen to know where either Aquilla Clemmons or Domingo Benavides lives, if they are still residing in or around the Dallas area? I am interested in these two people and would very much like to talk to them when I arrive there. Also, is there any people who you think it would pay for me to talk to that you might suggest? As always, if there is anything you want, or anything which you want me to check on, just let me know. I would really enjoy doing it for you. There are three areas of witnesses which I want to get into; those who were witnesses to the assassination and were not called by the Commission; those having information on a Ruby Oswald relationship; and those who were at the Tippit slaying. Any list of people in these general areas who might turn out to be interesting would be greatly appreciated.

Have you heard about Gary? He wrote me a letter just recently and said that he got into a fight and was kicked in the head about 15 or 20 times, lost the eyesight in his left eye and will have to wear corrective lens. That is a terrible shame. I was really shocked to hear about it as I'm sure you are. I may be seeing both him and Vince Salandria in Philly soon, most likely during the middle of August.

I must admit that the radio show I was on went over quite well, at least that's what I hear from some of the listeners. We talked a lot about the grassy knoll and where the shots were fired from and the motive and various other items. I really enjoyed it, although there has been no response yet. This town doesn't react to highly to anything.

There is one question that puzzles me. The evidence shows that a 7.65 German mauser was the gun that was found on the sixth floor on Nov. 22. Right? Well, if that is the case, why did they find 6.5 cartridge shells? You are probably aware of Penn Jones statements that he thinks the man on the knoll was the one to be "sacrificed," so the others could get away. In this case then, how did the men on the sixth floor appear to know that shells would have to be found there? How come 3 shells and no more? The Commission states that the most convincing evidence of only 3 shots was the fact of the 3 shells on the 6th. floor. Were they put there specifically to link Oswalds gun with the assassination and if so, why did they feel the shells were necessary if the guy on the knoll was the one to get caught? I can't figure this out although I think it is very puzzling. Can you help straighten out my thinking???

Well, guess I'll close for here. Let me know as fast as you can what you need as I may decide to go to Dallas a few days earlier. Take care and thanks for everything.

Warm regards,

Barry

Barry W. Ernest
511 - 26th. Avenue
Altoona, Penna.
16601